

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW REPORT MOHAVE COUNTY

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2005

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Mohave County at the time of their deaths. During 2005, there were a total of 34 fatalities among children birth through 17 years of age who resided in Mohave County. Males were disproportionately represented among childhood deaths with 56 percent of the deaths overall. Figure 1 shows the number of boys and girls who died in each age group

**Figure 1. Age Group and Gender for all Deaths
Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County, 2005**

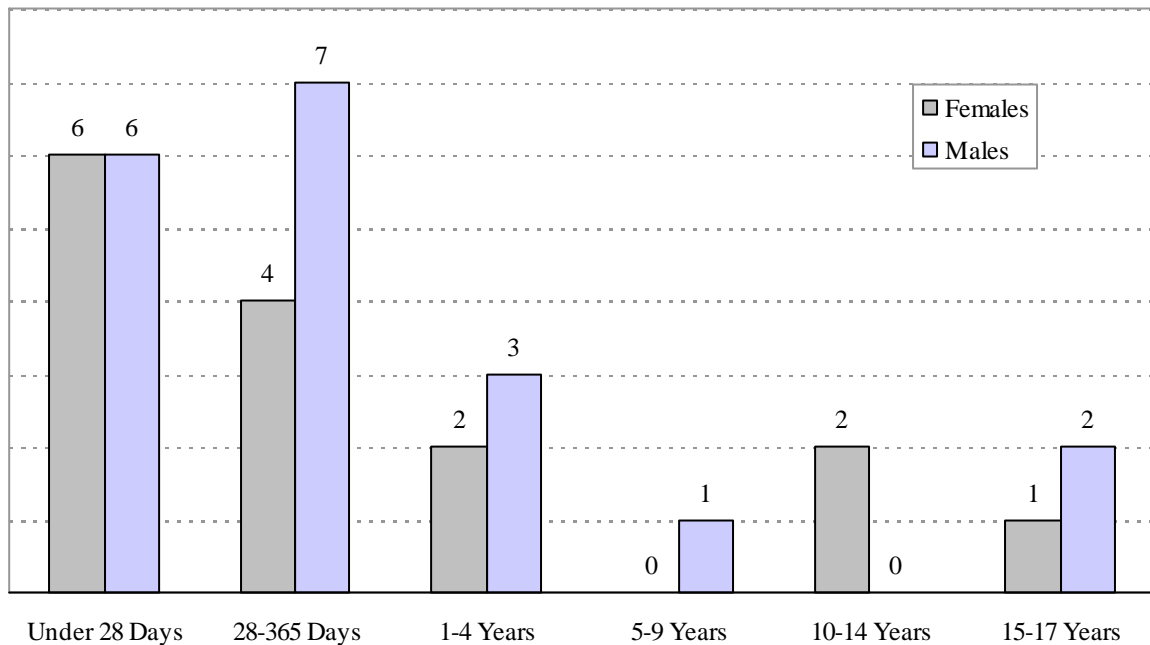
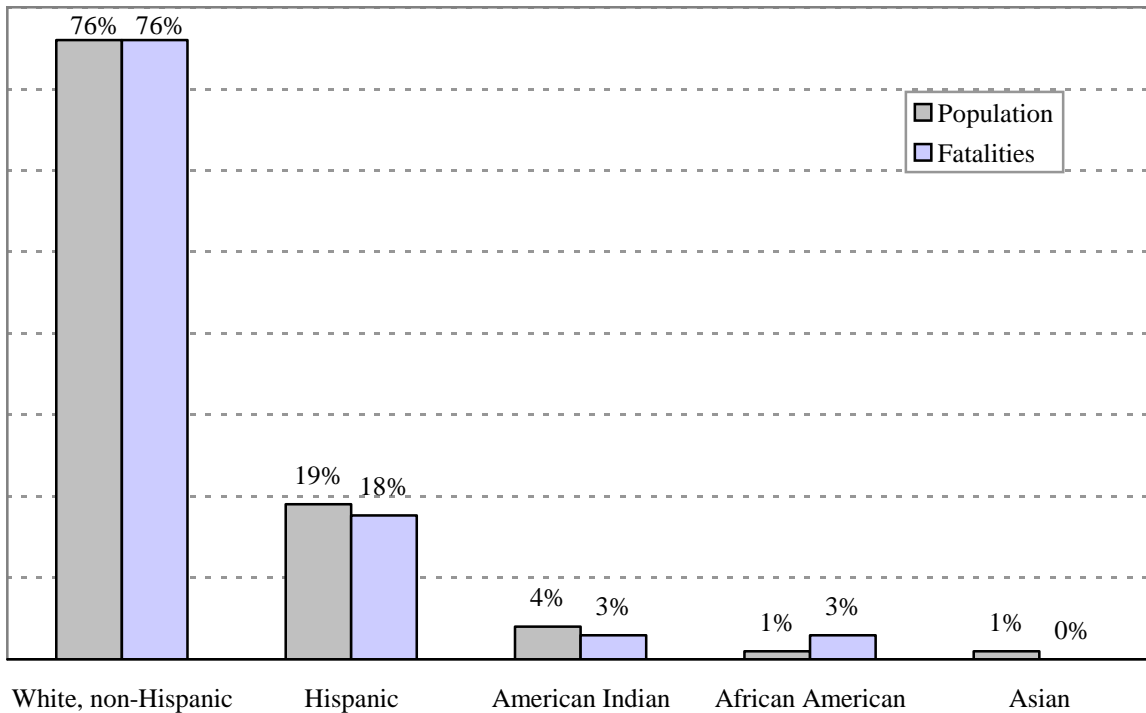


Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the children who resided in Mohave County compared to fatalities of children who resided in Mohave County during 2005.

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Population Birth through 17 Years Compared to Fatalities, Mohave County, 2005



CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or disease resulting in the death (e.g. motor vehicle crash, pneumonia). Manner of death explains how the death came about. Manners of death are categorized as natural, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. In addition to reviewing medical examiner reports, Child Fatality Review Teams review records from hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and other sources. As a result of this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the team's determination of cause and manner sometimes differs from those recorded on the death certificate.

Natural deaths (e.g. medical conditions, congenital anomalies, prematurity) accounted for 76 percent (n=26) of all fatalities of children who resided in Mohave County. Overall, 18 percent of childhood deaths were due to an accident and 50 percent (n=3) of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. Table 1 shows a cross-tabulation of the cause and manner of death for children who were residents of Mohave County.

Table 1. Cause And Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County, 2005						
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>Total</u>
Medical*			15			15
Prematurity			7			7
SIDS			4			4
MVC	3					3
Suffocation	1					1
Blunt Force Trauma		1				1
Choking	1					1
Fire/Burn	1					1
Stab/Laceration		1				1
Total	6	2	26	0	0	34
Percent of Total	18%	6%	76%	0%	0%	
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

PREVENTABILITY

During reviews, teams examine the circumstances surrounding the death and identify factors that may have contributed to the death. Part of this review includes a 34-item checklist of contributing factors. After reviewing the contributing factors, the team determines whether the death was preventable.

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if an individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 15 (44 percent) of the deaths of children who resided in Mohave County were preventable in 2005.

Existence of a contributing factor did not necessarily result in the determination that a death was preventable. Sixty-five percent of all deaths (n=22) had at least one contributing factor noted. Table 2 shows the top contributing factors for the deaths of resident children of Mohave County in 2005, and the number of deaths that had the contributing factor noted.

Table 2. Top Contributing Factors to Child Fatalities, Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County, 2005	
<u>Factor</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lack of Supervision	6
Lack of Parenting Skills	6
Sleep Position	5

MOHAVE COUNTY CHILD FATALITIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section will compare the deaths of children who resided in Mohave County to the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. In 2005, 34 children who were residents of Mohave County died, and 1,039 children died who were residents of the other 14 counties. Child Fatality Review Teams found that Mohave County had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Overall, 44 percent of Mohave County deaths were preventable (n=15), compared to 32 percent in the remaining counties (n=336).

Table 3 reveals that the top two causes of childhood death in Mohave County and in the remaining counties in Arizona were medical causes (excluding SIDS and prematurity), followed by prematurity. In Mohave County there was a higher percentage of deaths attributed to SIDS than the remaining counties.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005			
<u>Mohave County (n=34)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding Mohave County (n=1,039)</u>	
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Medical*	44%	Medical*	39%
Prematurity	21%	Prematurity	26%
SIDS	12%	MVC	10%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity			

Table 4 compares the manner of childhood deaths for residents of Mohave County to the rest of Arizona. The leading manner of death was natural for both Mohave County and the remaining counties, accounting for over half of childhood deaths, followed by accidental deaths. This comparison reveals that a larger percentage of childhood deaths were due to natural causes in Mohave County than in the remainder of Arizona. In Mohave County there were no childhood deaths due to suicide compared to three percent of childhood deaths in 2005 for the remaining Arizona counties.

Table 4. Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005			
<u>Mohave County (n=34)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding Mohave County (n=1,039)</u>	
<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Natural	76%	Natural	68%
Accident	18%	Accident	20%
Homicide	6%	Homicide	5%
Suicide	0%	Suicide	3%
Undetermined	0%	Undetermined	3%

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of childhood deaths of Mohave County residents to other Arizona counties. Mohave County had a higher proportion of deaths among infants 28 to 365 days old and children one through four years old, and a lower proportion of childhood deaths occurring in all other age groups.

Figure 3. Percent of Fatalities by Age Group, Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005

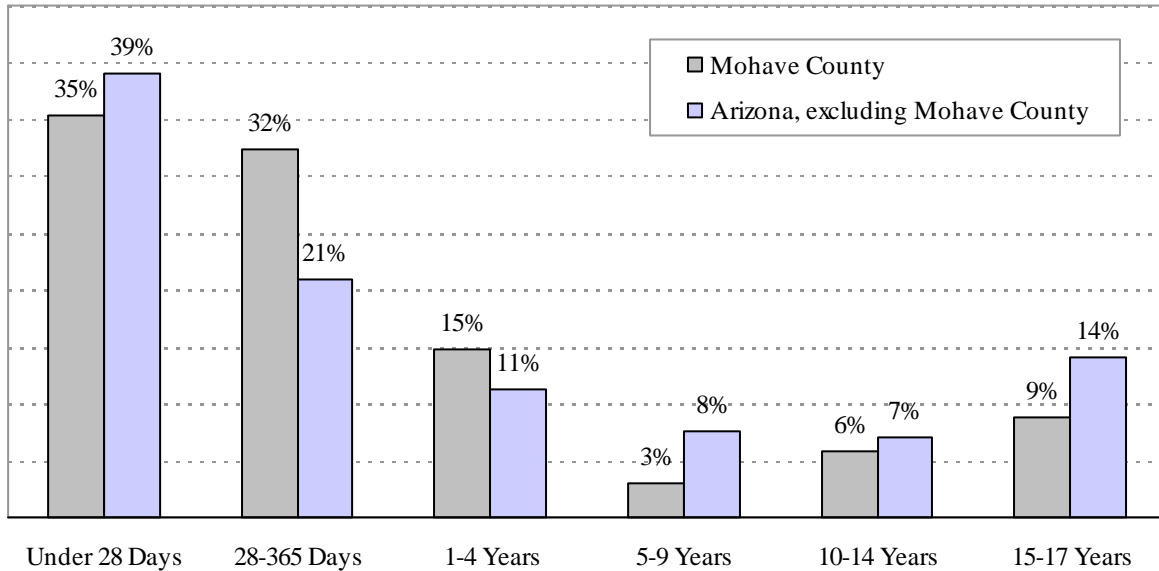


Figure 4 shows a comparison of childhood deaths by gender for residents of Mohave County with the other counties in Arizona. Mohave County had a slightly higher percentage of female deaths than the remainder of Arizona.

Figure 4. Percent of Fatalities by Gender, Birth through 17 Years, Mohave County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005

